

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A BTL amplifying apparatus having two power amplifiers in a BTL configuration for ~~amplifying~~ driving a speaker, comprising:

muting means for muting an input signal to be supplied to the power amplifiers during a predetermined length of time;

detection means for detecting a differential voltage to provide a DC offset between outputs from the two power amplifiers while ~~an~~ no input signal ~~to be~~ is supplied to the power amplifiers ~~is muted~~ by the muting means; and

decision means for deciding whether or not said differential voltage is larger than a prescribed voltage;

switches connected between output terminals of the power amplifiers and the speaker, whereby the switches are turned off when it is decided that the differential voltage is larger than the prescribed voltage, for preventing the speaker from being supplied with the output signals from the power amplifiers.

2. (currently amended) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

volume means for adjusting a signal level of said input signal to the amplifiers; and

warning means for giving a warning when it is decided that said ~~differential voltage~~DC offset is larger than said prescribed ~~value~~voltage by said decision means.

8. (Currently amended) A BTL amplifying apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

volume means for adjusting a signal level of said input signal to said power amplifiers;
and

C muting means for muting said input signal to be supplied from said volume means during a ~~prescribed period~~predetermined length of time,

wherein while the input signal is muted by said muting means, when said power amplifiers are activated by the activation/deactivation means, an operation of the muting means is discontinued after said ~~prescribed period elapses~~predetermined length of time has elapsed.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a first amplifier which at least indirectly receives an input signal;
a second amplifier which at least indirectly receives the input signal; and
a control circuit;

wherein the control circuit detects a differential voltage between a first output signal output from the first amplifier and a second output signal output from the second amplifier to provide a DC offset; and

wherein the control circuit determines whether or not the ~~differential voltage~~ DC offset is larger than a prescribed voltage.

10. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the control circuit detects the ~~differential voltage~~ DC offset when the input signal is muted and no input signal is supplied to the amplifiers.

C 11. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the first amplifier at least indirectly amplifies the input signal to generate the first output signal.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the control circuit detects the ~~differential voltage~~ DC offset when the input signal is muted and no input signal is supplied to the amplifiers.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the second amplifier at least indirectly amplifies the input signal to generate the second output signal.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the second amplifier at least indirectly amplifies the input signal to generate the second output signal.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, including:

a volume control circuit adapted to adjust a signal level of the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers; and

a muting control circuit adapted to mute the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers for a predetermined length of time.

C 16. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the control circuit performs at least one of detecting the differential voltage to provide the DC offset and determining whether or not the ~~differential voltage~~ DC offset is larger than the prescribed voltage responsive to a condition of at least one of a power switch and a signal source.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the input signal is provided by an electronic volume.

18. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, including at least one activation/deactivation circuit adapted to activate or deactivate at least one of the first and second amplifiers responsive to the determination of whether or not the ~~differential voltage~~ DC offset is larger than the prescribed voltage.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, including a switch between at least one of the first and second amplifiers and a speaker, wherein the switch is adapted to prevent at least one of the first and second output signals from being supplied to the speaker responsive to

the determination of whether or not the ~~differential voltage~~ DC offset is larger than the prescribed voltage.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, including a warning circuit adapted to activate a warning device responsive to the determination of whether or not the ~~differential voltage~~ DC offset is larger than the prescribed voltage.

C
21. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 16, including:
a volume control circuit adapted to adjust a signal level of the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers; and
a muting control circuit adapted to mute the input signal supplied to the first and second amplifiers for a predetermined length of time;
wherein at least one of the first and second amplifiers is activated by the activation/deactivation circuit and the muting control circuit removes the mute from the input signal after the predetermined length of time has passed.
